



# Parking Control added downtown

**City funds 10 new positions to increase downtown enforcement**

**D**owntown Kansas City's booming growth is drawing more residents, businesses and visitors, and most of those people have cars to go along with them.

What's not growing is the number of available parking spaces.

"We've heard from several downtown business owners recently that their customers can't park at their businesses because downtown residents have overstayed their time in parking spots," Chief Richard Smith wrote on his blog. "We've heard from downtown residents that people attending special events have taken up their parking spots. And we've heard from people attending downtown events that they can't find a place to park."

With just three Parking Control Officers (PCO's) and two Parking Control Supervisors to cover all 316 square miles of Kansas City, KCPD was having a rough time keeping up with downtown parking enforcement.

"For the last several years, citations have gone down precipitously," City Councilman Scott Wagner said at a Feb. 7 Finance and Governance Committee Meeting. "We just needed to do something different to help relieve some of the parking issues downtown."

What the City Council did was allocate \$145,000 so KCPD could begin hiring 10 additional PCO's who would be dedicated to enforcing downtown parking. The department is hiring and recruiting for those positions now.

The 10 new PCO's will be charged with keeping parking spots turning over in an area from the Missouri River to Hospital Hill, and State Line east to Woodland Avenue. They'll issue citations to those who overstay their time at parking meters, park improperly along the Streetcar route, park in areas where parking is prohibited and more.



**Parking Control Officer Rachel Hakes arranged for a truck parked in front of a fire hydrant to be towed. After 10 new Parking Control officers are hired to concentrate on downtown, P.C.O. Hakes will enforce parking in the rest of the city.**

They'll work day and evening shifts and some weekends, said Captain Doug Niemeier. They'll also help with special events downtown, a task which frequently pulls the existing PCO's away from enforcement.

A period of public education will take place before downtown parking enforcement steps up, Chief Smith said. The new PCO's will spend a considerable amount of time issuing warnings to get everyone used to the new enforcement.

"This will allow people to develop a downtown parking plan that will be fair to everyone and allow businesses to be successful," Chief Smith

wrote.

The existing PCO's will manage parking issues in the rest of the city, Captain Niemeier said. They will respond to 311 Action Center and other complaints and assist with events that take place outside the downtown area.

KCPD is working with city leaders on a downtown parking master plan. Some of the biggest changes are happening in the River Market area, where parking meters were installed and several public lots were converted from free to paid on March 1. The rate now is \$1 an hour from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"The renewed vibrancy of our downtown is exciting, but it comes with some growing pains," Chief Smith wrote. "We look forward to working with everyone to make parking accessible to as many people as possible in the heart of KC."

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# Pastor, community leader joins BOPC

New Board of Police Commissioners member Bishop Mark Tolbert said he sees his latest role as a bridge with two-way traffic.

"Of course we handle budgets, business and policies, but I still see my role is to represent the community to police and represent police to the community," he said.

Sworn onto the Board in early November, Bishop Tolbert is well-known in Kansas City. He pastors Victorious Life Church at 34<sup>th</sup> and Paseo, is the founder of the Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy Charter School (named for his father) and is the past president of The Concerned Clergy Coalition of Greater Kan-

sas City. He serves as bishop of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World's Heart of America Council of Churches, which covers the western half of Missouri and all of Kansas.

A long-time advocate for Kansas City's urban core, Bishop Tolbert said he got to know several KCPD officers while coordinating the Kansas City Black Expo from 2005-2010. KCPD was a sponsor of the event, and Bishop Tolbert purposefully put the department's displays at the entrance of the expo, so all attendees would have to go through them and meet officers.

"We had so many people who told me, 'Hey, I didn't know police officers could be nice!'"

Bishop Tolbert said he always works to improve relationships between police and the community.

"There has been a lack of involvement on both sides when it comes to getting to know each other," he said. "...People know I'm always for trying to find the best solution, no matter who's involved. I'm not always going



Judge Thomas Newton administered the Board of Police Commissioners oath to Bishop Mark Tolbert in a ceremony at Victorious Life Church in November.

to be on the police side, and I'm not always going to be on the public side. I want to hear both sides and try to find a solution."

He said KCPD has a much better relationship with urban core residents than police departments in other cities, but better diversity training could further improve understanding and service. He said he's glad Chief

Smith is working to better understand the people and needs of the urban core, and he thinks it's a strength the Chief came up through the ranks of KCPD and already knows the issues of Kansas City. Missouri State Senator Kiki Curls contacted Bishop Tolbert last

year about filling an expired seat on the Board of Police Commissioners.

"She told me, 'Bishop, we've been kicking around some names, and your name is always in the mix.'"

He agreed to be part of the Board. He was appointed by Gov. Eric Grietens and confirmed by the Missouri Senate. Although his pending appointment became public knowledge this past summer, he didn't join

the Board until November. He said he didn't feel comfortable coming on until the selection process for the new Chief of Police was complete.

Bishop Tolbert was born and raised in Kansas City, Mo. He graduated from Central High School, attended Penn Valley Community College and received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Western Baptist Bible College. Before following in his father's footsteps in ministry, he owned a Smack's Hamburger franchise at 31<sup>st</sup> and Indiana. He took over as the Victorious Life Church pastor upon his father's retirement in 1989.

Bishop Tolbert has a history of sticking up for Kansas City's less-fortunate. He and the Concerned Clergy Coalition have fought to ensure urban core residents have the same access to banking services and loans as everyone else and to prevent insurance companies from "redlining" (the denial of services, either directly or through selectively raising prices, to residents of certain areas based on the racial or ethnic composition of those areas) inner-city residents.

The Lee A. Tolbert Academy arose from a small program Bishop Tolbert started through his church to give kids suspended from school work to do. It now has 500 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, and Bishop Tolbert said its graduates are among the most sought after by public and charter urban high schools because of their academic achievement.

In April, Bishop Tolbert will mark 40 years of marriage to his wife, Emelda Faciane Tolbert. Their eldest son, Mark Tolbert, Jr., was killed in a crash in 2000 at the age of 19. Their younger son, Britton Tolbert, is 29 and lives in Kansas City.

Bishop Tolbert said he sees his service on the Board of Police Commissioners as a continuation of his community work.

"This is just another round in what I do to make sure our community is not only safe but physically and financially healthy," he said.

**"I still see my role is to represent the community to the police and the police to the community."**

**- Bishop Mark Tolbert  
Board of Police Commissioners Member**

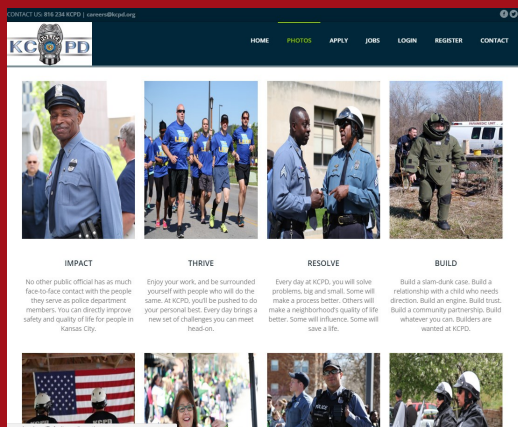
## Online applications now available

The journey to becoming a member of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department just got easier.

For the first time, those interested in working at KCPD now can apply online. The place to do it is [careers.kcpd.org](http://careers.kcpd.org). The site lists job openings, walks applicants through the multi-step application process, allows applicants to ask questions and more.

"It used to be you'd have to come downtown to apply – sometimes multiple times in the initial screening process," Deputy Chief Karl Oakman said. "We've put that all online now to make it easier for people who want join us in protecting and serving Kansas City."

More than 370 people already have registered to apply with the site since it went live Jan. 23.



## KCPD dominates shooting competition



KCPD once again dominated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission's Kansas-Missouri Border Showdown Firearms Competition at the Kansas City Missouri Police Academy on Feb. 17 to benefit the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund. Law enforcement officers from Missouri and Kansas compete for team and individual honors.

KCPD fielded two teams: Sergeants Dave Hill, Anthony Mak and Ward Smith and Officer Jon Best formed KCPD Team 1 and Officers Mark Fogel, Jon Munyan, Dan Stookey and Albert Villafain formed KCPD Team 2. The KCPD Teams finished 1-2 in the Missouri Elimination. Captain Sondra Zink-Groves competed in the Individual event. In the finals, KCPD Team 1 beat the Johnson County Sheriff's Department for the Team Championship and retained the Traveling Trophy. In the individual Showdown, Sergeants Dave Hill, Ward Smith and Anthony Mak and Officer Jon Best were the top 4 shooters from Missouri, and progressed to the individual bracketed tournament. At the end of the individual competition, Sergeant Dave Hill was crowned the Tournament Champion.

This is the fourth year in a row that a member of KCPD has won the individual championship. Sergeant Hill won it previously in 2014, Sergeant Smith won in 2015 and again in 2016. On the team side, KCPD teams won the Team Championship in 2014, 2016 and again this year.

## Gala raises \$621K+ for Police Foundation of Kansas City

The Fourth Annual Call for Backup fund-raiser on Feb. 23 at the Downtown Marriott raised \$621,720 to support the Police Foundation of Kansas City. About 700 people attended. So far this year, the Foundation has taken in \$2.2 million through fund-raising and matching city funds.

More than 70 department members volunteered at the fund-raiser, doing everything from registration to working static displays to auction assistance. Many others also worked to help prepare for the event in advance. Commissioner William Evans of the Boston Police Department was the keynote speaker for the event. His message on policing and communities was well received by guests and officers alike.





## Upcoming Events

March 14  
**Headquarters Blood Drive**

March 20  
**Board of Police Commissioners Meeting**

April 14  
**Tip-a-Cop for Special Olympics Missouri**

The Informant is a publication of KCPD's Media Unit  
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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

Life-Saving Award  
Probationary Officer Jared Tipton

Meritorious Service Awards  
Detention Facility Officer Natalie Cofield-Booker  
Sergeant Katharine Coots  
Supervisor Michael Healy  
Officer Michael Moats

Certificates of Commendation  
Officer Luke Abouhalkah  
Officer Joseph Jrolf  
Sergeant Jonathan Rivers  
Probationary Officer Janna Rumney

Distinguished Service Medal  
Officer David Barbour

### 25-Year Rings

Supervisor Kathryn Childs  
Master Detective Tim Mountz

### Retirements

Captain Natalina Ehlers  
Officer Kevin Green

### Obituaries

Retired Officer Richard David  
Retired Deputy Chief David Lynch  
Retired Officer Charles Pottinger

The mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department is to protect and serve with professionalism, honor and integrity.